

THE NATIONAL REFORM PRESS ASSOCIATION.

So many of the members of our reform press association are members of the Alliance, and so many of them are usually delegates to the national council, that it is difficult to get them together for business during the session of the council. It has therefore been decided at the recent meeting in Memphis to hold no more meetings at the same time and place as the national council, and the constitution was changed accordingly. There being some important business which requires early attention, it was decided to hold the next meeting February 22, 1893, and Washington, D. C., was selected as the place of the meeting. Arrangements will be made to secure transportation, and it is desired that all members of the association and all who wish to become members shall attend. There will not only be important business matters to attend to, looking to the financial interests of our papers, but the opportunity will be afforded to visit places of interest at the national capital, and to witness the proceedings of congress which will be in session at that time. A grand excursion will be arranged and a general good time is expected. W. S. Morgan, secretary of the association, will issue a circular soon giving full information concerning this meeting, and asking applications from all who wish to attend, for transportation. There will be some expense attending the arrangements for transportation which it is expected the members will contribute in response to Brother Morgan's circular. This is expected to be no small affair. It is desired to make it a grand success both as an excursion and as a meeting. Let all editors of reform papers make arrangements to go.

VAIN HOPES.

The following choice bit of prophetic wisdom from a state house philosopher is going the rounds of the republican press:

Hon. William Higgins sizes the situation up exactly in the following: "The next republican campaign will be made upon republican principles, pure and simple, and no isms, fads or ologies will be allowed to enter into our platform. The days of crazy quilts are over, and from now on you will see republican battles in Kansas made for republicanism and honest government."

The trouble with republican leaders in recent years has been that they have had no principles, and the "isms, fads and ologies" have been incorporated in their "crazy quilt" platforms simply to catch votes, and without any intention to carry out a single pledge given to the people. The above quotation from the Hon. (?) William is a plain confession of this fact, and the confession is simply a confirmation of what the people had already learned by observation and experience. The disastrous defeat of the republican party is not owing to "isms, fads and ologies" to be found in the platforms, but to the dishonesty, the insincerity and the hypocrisy of republican leaders in making promises to the people which they never intended to fulfill, and it matters not what course these dema-

gogues may pursue in the future, or what kind of platforms they may make, they have forever forfeited the confidence of the people and cannot hope for its restoration.

The most comforting thing resulting from defeat of the republican party is that it puts an end to Wm McKinley, Jr. Mr. McKinley never was as big a man as a great many members of the party supposed him to be. The so-called McKinley bill is the old senate bill which was got up as a substitute for the Mills bill. He took a copy of it and marked a large number of tariff duties higher than they were, and lo, he got credit for having evolved a new system of tariff, and it was called the McKinley bill. Any man of ordinary intelligence could have made the same changes which resulted in its being called the "McKinley bill" in about an hour.

Politics in the South.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Here, enroute for Birmingham from Memphis, I find that it will be some while until "train time," and so I have determined to write a letter for publication in the west, thereby hoping to throw some light to you upon the political situation as I now interpret it to exist in this state and in the south.

Having just circulated among the delegates from the great west attending the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union at Memphis I found that much interest was manifested by them concerning the temper and the feeling of the reformers of this section after the recent campaign, which was so warmly fought here, and was generally so remarkable and peculiar. That our western brothers learned at Memphis that we are yet loyal, I have no doubt. But I do doubt if any one who does not thoroughly understand politics in the south could have any definite opinion of the political situation as it is by mere inquiry.

No conception of the actual conditions that confront the reformers of the south can be had by anything short of residence in this section.

I regret, sadly regret, that the mistaken idea is somewhat prevalent in the west that the reformers of the south overrated their strength, and made exaggerated claims in order to influence the voters of other sections. I write honestly and truly, and as one who has been in a position to be correctly informed, when I state that a majority of the intelligent and of all voters of Alabama are believers in the doctrines of the People's party.

Our people are firm in their adherence to these great principles of reform. And in the battle of ballots in November we fought a good fight and kept the faith, but the democrats kept the votes by their repeated, savage, disgraceful and revolutionary methods.

The multitude of our forces have not been overestimated. The determination of our people cannot be overrated. We realize the critical conditions that confront us. But we will work out our salvation. We will fight out our cause, and the time has come when we are in the spirit to fight it out in any way the right demands.

Cleveland's election was an especial calamity to the south. In Alabama, upon Wednesday after Tuesday, the day of the national election, the democrats conceded us four congressmen and declared the state to be "in doubt." The returns from the usual ballot box stuffing precincts were being withheld. When the news of Cleveland's sweeping elec-

tion reached Alabama, the democrats then run up their vote and it is doubtful whether they know themselves how high they "counted it." If General Weaver or the republicans had swept the country, I seriously doubt if the democrats of Alabama would have put up any earnest claim whatever; for they knew we had determined, if such were the case, to go to the bottom of the matter.

The people of the west conquered their immediate political enemy; the reformers of the south were thrown upon the mercy of their immediate political antagonists. We rejoice in the fullness of your victory and our victory in what I conceive to be the absolute destruction of the republican party.

Now the party of "if we had a chance" has a chance, and a democrat never took chance to make a good chance, and I am confident that there will be another dull thud in four years, and the democratic party will be interred beside its twin spinster sister. Our people here regard the results of the recent election as a grand triumph of the People's party. We have obliterated the republican party. The democratic party is now on the chop block, and its epitaph—"died of non-entity"—will soon be written. I believe it. So don't think the People's party is retrograding, or is weak in the south. It is not true.

"Carry the news to Hannah; we will keep a-coming and get there too, or die in the ditch a-jumping!"

Fraternally, J. C. MANNING.

Member National committee. Secretary State Executive Committee, People's party.

Birmingham, Alabama.

The Homestead Outcome.

The conclusion of the Homestead strike by the defeat of the men, announced in yesterday's *News*, was inevitable. Yet nothing has been settled except the power of money to starve wage-workers into submission. By that irrational sort of labor controversy the men have been heavy losers; but, while the Carnegie company has lost two dollars to their one, that loss counts as nothing from their easily acquired millions.

Labor cannot too soon learn that the only way to successfully fight millionaire barons of industry is with the ballot. While toilers have in the past been wasting their political strength, or allowed it to be turned against themselves, men of the Andrew Carnegie type have been consolidating their influence to mould legislation in their own interest, in order that they might be able to secure far more than their just share of the profits of industry. In addition to that, they have caused laws to be enacted which place labor at a grievously unfair disadvantage in controversies about wages. Not satisfied with practically controlling the state military force, they have encouraged the organization and equipment of an irresponsible private army of mercenaries, to be subject to their call in formidable force, and liable, in the event of any contest between labor and capital, to be hurled against workingmen with bullet and bayonet, to intimidate and kill if necessary.

In the Homestead case, a detail of 500 of these private assassins was shipped into Pennsylvania under contract with the Carnegie company for the purpose of terrorizing and murdering the men, should the advance of this unauthorized force, intrenched behind the steel-clad bulwarks of vessels armoured for the occasion, be impeded in its lawless progress. This daring and reckless step was taken by the Carnegie company, as was confessed by Mr. Frick to the congress-

sional committee, before the ability of the sheriff of the county to maintain the peace had been considered or ascertained, and regardless of the right and duty of that officer to seek reinforcements, should it become necessary, from the regularly constituted authorities. The lawless act led to the tragedy that followed, and the company that instigated it is morally responsible for the consequences. If legal responsibility does not attach, it is because the law has been adjusted to the selfish requirements of the rich and the powerful and does not equally protect the poor and the weak.

While the moral sense of the nation recognized the intimate connection between the Pinkerton army that was hurried to the front at Homestead and the succeeding trouble—a connection that was noted and seriously commented on from the floors of congress—this fact has not prevented the Carnegie company from a malignant and cold-blooded prosecution of every striker who could be implicated upon the evidence of Pinkerton spies—evidence that a member of the Pinkerton force declared to the congressional investigating committee at Chicago last week was worthless, since the conditions of that service are such that a premium is offered for perjury. An old Pennsylvania law has been revamped for the benefit of the Carnegie company, and upon such mercenary evidence a number of the Homestead workers have been indicted for treason. It is, forsooth, no violation of the Pennsylvania statute which forbids the invasion of the state by an armed force, when capital descends to the trick of transporting the force on one train and an arsenal upon another and arming the men within the state line; but if workmen resort to the only means left them for making terms for their labor, or if they defend themselves and their homes from the lawless invasion of hiring desperadoes, they are guilty of treason and liable to prosecution under various forms.

The Carnegie company is part of an extensive combination of corporate bodies that have conspired to crush out labor unionism, that labor may be placed at their mercy and made subject to the infamous financial and industrial conditions by which the masses of the people are oppressed and undergoing a slow process of pauperization that the bulk of all wealth may be absorbed and enjoyed by comparatively a very few persons.

There will be nothing better in store for labor than the Homestead outcome until wage-workers make common cause at the polls against concentrated capital that is used primarily for self-augmentation, secured by a legalized plundering process operated against the producing millions.—Rocky Mountain News, November 22.

Alliance men desiring to start or enlarge a co-operative store in a small town or village can obtain valuable information in regard to procuring an experienced business man and book-keeper as manager who will contribute to the capital stock by addressing "Co-operation," care J. B. French, Topeka, Kas.

"Among the Ozarks."

"The Land of Big Red Apples" is the title of an attractive and highly interesting book recently issued. It is handsomely illustrated with views of south Missouri scenery, including the famous Olden fruit farm of 3,000 acres in Howell county. It pertains entirely to fruit-raising in that great fruit belt of America, the southern slope of the Ozarks, and will prove of great value, not only to fruit-growers, but to every farmer and home-seeker in other states looking for a farm and a home. Mailed free. Address, J. E. Lockwood, Kansas City, Mo.